

Specification Amendments

At page 1, please change the first paragraph to read as follows:

- - This application claims the benefit of priority of JP 2002 - 275280, filed 9/20/2002, the subject matter of which is hereby incorporated by reference. - -

Please change the paragraph that spans pages 6 and 7 of the specification as follows:

The light flux output by the light source 14 is collected by the condensing lens 15 and enters one end of the light guide 16. The light flux that is output from the other end of the light guide 16 passes through, in sequential order, the condenser lens 8, the illumination field diaphragm 9, the variator lens 10, the reflecting prism 12, and the illumination lens 11 to thereafter illuminate the surgical area 2. The illumination optical system 7 of the present embodiment is a Koehler illumination optical system that projects the exit pupil of the illumination optical system to the surgical area 2. As can be seen in Fig. 1(a), the condenser lens 8 and the variator lens 10 form a projection optical system that projects light that exits from the end of the light guide 16. Accordingly, an image of the output end of the light guide 16 is formed on the surface of the illumination lens 11 that is nearest the surgical area 2 by means of the condenser lens 8 and the variator lens 10 of the illumination optical system. Further, an image of the illumination field diaphragm 9 is formed onto the surgical area 2 by means of the variator lens 10 and the illumination lens 11.

Please change the paragraph that spans pages 2 - 3 as follows:

- - In the surgical microscopes disclosed in Japanese Patent No. ~~2981923~~ 2891923 and in Japanese Laid Open Patent Application H6-44101, the left and right observation light fluxes, which correspond to the left and right observation optical systems, are on opposite sides of the illuminating light flux. Thus, even though the illuminating light flux reaches the bottom of a deep hole as a result of being aligned with the axis of the hole, the observation light fluxes become shielded by the entrance perimeter into the hole as the distance between the left and right

light fluxes is large. Thus, the bottom of the hole will not be visible to an observer. - -

At page 19, please change lines 1 - 11 of the Abstract of the Disclosure to read as follows:

- - A stereoscopic microscope ~~is disclosed that includes~~ including a light source section, an illumination optical system, and an observation optical system. The illumination optical system has an optical axis and includes a projection optical system. The projection optical system forms an intermediate image and irradiates a light flux from the light source section onto an observation object. The observation optical system includes an objective lens, a pair of left and right zooming optical systems for changing the magnification ratio of the observation optical system, and a pair of left and right eyepiece optical systems. A center position of the light source section is de-centered from the optical axis of the illumination optical system. Also, the illumination optical system includes a reflecting member which has two rounded notches and is inserted into and removed from a space on the object side of the objective optical system in conjunction with a zooming operation. - -